

MINUTES  
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL  
MARCH 25, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.  
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE – COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - PUBLIC SQUARE

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**ATTENDANCE: COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT** - County Council Chairman Jim Coleman and Vice Chairman Edward McDaniel; Council Members, David Pitts, Ted Nash, Keith Tollison and Joe Wood.

**COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:** Council Member, Diane Anderson (scheduled trip).

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:** Laurens County Administrator, Ernest Segars; Laurens County Clerk to Council, Betty C. Walsh and Sandy Cruickshanks, Laurens County Attorney.

**ATTENDING - LAURENS COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS:** Laurens County Public Works Director, Scott Holland; Lisa Kirk, Director, Laurens County Finance; Greg Lindley, Laurens County Director of Fire Service; Chuck Bobo, Laurens County Codes Official and Lynn West, Laurens County Director of Registration and Elections.

**INVITED GUESTS AND SPEAKERS:** Greg Dean, American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA); Paul Werts, Executive Director, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission; Andy Busbee, Manager of Aviation Design, Michael Baker Jr., Incorporated (Engineering Firm); Project Contractor, APAC-Tennessee, Incorporated, Ballenger Paving Division, Ronnie Ashmore, President; Project Sub Contractor, Jimmy Martin and Curtis Lockhart of Martin Brothers; Laurens County Airport Commission, George S. (Sammy) Wham, Chairman; John D. Mitchell, Vice Chairman; Jim Spencer, Secretary / Treasurer; Airport Staff Gifford A. (Bud) Boyter and Jim White.

**PRESS:** The *Laurens County Advertiser*, Corey Engle; Iva Cadmus, WLBG-Radio and GoLaurens Representative.

**SCHEDULED SESSION AGENDA ITEMS** – (1) Approval of Agenda, March 25, 2014; (2) Approval of Minutes from the March 11, 2014 Regular Session; (3.) Public Hearing - Laurens County Ordinance #764 – “Public Hearing, Laurens County Ordinance #764, “An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance #751 for the Transfer and Conveyance of All Public Alleys and Alleyways to the Laurens City Commission of Public Works” (3-a.) Third Reading, Laurens County Ordinance #764, “Public Hearing, Laurens County Ordinance #764, “An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance #751 for the Transfer and Conveyance of All Public Alleys and Alleyways to the Laurens City Commission of Public Works”; 4) Recognition of recent honors – William E. Adair, Laurens County Registrations / Elections – South Carolina Board Member of the Year; (5) Laurens County Fire Service – Durbin Creek Fire Station, Emergency Repairs; (6) Report – County Council Committee on Finance and Administration; (7) Administrative Report – Ernie Segars, County Administrator; (8) 6:00 P.M. (time approximate); (9) Public Comment, Fifteen Minute Period (not to exceed five minutes per topic); (10) Comments from Council Members; (11) Adjournment.

**MEETING NOTIFICATION** - The County Council Members, Press and requested public notifications were informed of the meeting in a timely and appropriate manner.

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Coleman called the March 25, 2014 regular scheduled meeting of Council to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Laurens County Historic Courthouse. Chairman Coleman invited all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation provided by Vice Chairman McDaniel.

**APPROVAL – AGENDA – MARCH 25, 2014** – Upon a MOTION from VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN PITTS; the agenda was approved with no deletions or additions; VOTE 6-0.



**APPROVAL – MINUTES – MARCH 11, 2014 – REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL** – Upon a MOTION from VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL and a SECOND from COUNCILMAN TOLLISON, the minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting was approved as presented; VOTE 6-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE #764 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #751 FOR THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF ALL PUBLIC ALLEYS AND ALLEYWAYS TO THE LAURENS CITY COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS”.** Chairman Coleman opened the public hearing at 5:35 PM for public comments. Having no one wishing to address neither Council nor the proposed ordinance, Chairman Coleman closed the hearing at 5:36 PM.

- a.) **THIRD READING - ORDINANCE #764 – “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #751 FOR THE TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF ALL PUBLIC ALLEYS AND ALLEYWAYS TO THE LAURENS CITY COMMISSION OF PUBLIC WORKS”.** VICE CHAIRMAN MCDANIEL made the MOTION to approve Ordinance #762 upon third reading as presented; with COUNCILMAN PITTS SECONDDING. COUNCIL VOTED 6-0.

**PRESENTATION TO LAURENS COUNTY AIRPORT “NATIONAL SILVER AWARD”** – Chairman Coleman invited Mr. Paul Werts, Executive Director of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission to come forward to begin the process for the award.

Mr. Werts expressed his appreciation towards all of the team efforts conducted by all for the Laurens County Airport and that the property is a great asset for the County for aviation use.

Mr. Gregg Dean, Executive Director of the Carolinas Concrete Paving Association expressed his honors in presenting to Laurens County and the Laurens County Airport the “National Silver Award”. Mr. Dean said, “For the last twenty four (24) years we have had this awards program which is an annual recognition for quality concrete pavements constructed in the United States and Canada. I am very pleased that the airport here in Laurens County was honored at the annual meeting of recently with this award. Details about the project actually included two (2) bids, one to reclaim the asphalt presently on the runway or to go to a five inch (5”) concrete overlay. This is the first five inch (5”) in South Carolina. The project team consisted of the LPA Group, the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, the Federal Aviation Association and the Laurens County staff and Airport Commission Members. This project was not just a runway but included a taxiway where the team worked together and figured out a way to make the taxiway happen. I know these team efforts helped to make this award possible”.



**RECOGNITION OF RECENT HONORS TO WILLIAM E. ADAIR, LAURENS COUNTY REGISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMISSION** – Council Chairman Coleman said, “Mr. Adair was recently honored at the Annual South Carolina Association of Registration Elections Officials (SCARE) Conference. Mr. Adair was recognized as contributing to the election community in ways that are to be considered above and beyond the normal duties of County Commissioners. Mr. Adair has served on the Laurens County Elections Commission for over ten (10) years with six (6) of those ten (10) years as Chairman”.

Mr. Adair thanked Council for the local recognition and that he was honored to be a part of state recognition from Laurens County.



**LAURENS COUNTY FIRE SERVICE– DURBIN CREEK FIRE STATION – EMERGENCY REPAIRS**

Laurens County Fire Service Director, Greg Lindley, appeared before Council with concerns towards repair needs at the Durbin Creek Fire Station.

Mr. Lindley stated, “Following an inspection by our insurance carrier, we have come to realize that there are immediate structure issues that need to be repaired. The electrical wiring is not up to code standards as well as the exterior metal wall panels and roof needing to be repaired. We requested bids from three (3) construction firms with only two (2) replies”.

Administrator Segars noted that he had visited the Fire Station and observed the deterioration of the walls and offered for Council consideration the option of a Special Tax District bond Issuance to remedy others in this state of repair.

Councilman Tollison questioned if this station was County owned or owned by the Durbin Community and if this was something that this Council needed to look into as to ownership? Mr. Lindley replied that it was not a county owned station and that many of the buildings were not built by a contractor.

Councilman Tollison stated that he was not in favor of spending this much money on a building that was not county owned. Administrator Segars noted that the County created the fire districts in place now. Mr. Lindley stated that he had spoken with the Durbin Fire Chief and that they were willing to transfer the building over to the County.

Henderson Electrical - \$11,300 – to bring the current building up to code, keeping the existing dayroom area that was built by the volunteers and is not up to building code.

Medlin Builders:

Option 1 - \$ 6,500 – bringing building electrical up to code; to include removing current dayroom and converting to bay area;

\$28,660 – removing / replacing all exterior walls, trim, base angles on all sides and install a new roof;

\$21,875 – adding a new dayroom / classroom on rear of building (25’X30’)

\$57,035 – TOTAL COST

Option 2 - \$11,300 – bringing building electrical up to code; keeping existing dayroom / classroom;

\$28,660 – removing/replacing all exterior walls, trim, base angles all sides and install a new roof;

\$39,960 – TOTAL COST

Jones Construction:

Option 1 - \$13,950 – bringing building electrical up to code; to include removing current dayroom and converting to bay area;

\$28,7000 – removing / replacing all exterior walls, trim, base angles on all sides and install a new roof;

\$64,500 – adding a new dayroom / classroom on rear of building (25’X30’)

\$107,150 – TOTAL COST

Option 2 - \$13,950 – bringing building electrical up to code; removing existing dayroom/classroom and converting to bay area;

\$28,700 – removing/replacing all exterior walls, trim, base angles all sides and install a new roof;

\$42,650 – TOTAL COST

Councilman Nash asked if the heating and air conditioning would need to be replaced also. Mr. Lindley replied that the units could be reused.



Councilman Wood said, "Ownership has nothing to do with this and is nothing new to this Council. Two years ago we provided well over fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to Hickory Tavern. Why do we need ownership to fix the problems, this is a volunteer service offered to help the County".

Councilman Wood asked what the condition of the concrete and insulation was. Mr. Lindley replied, "The concrete is in good shape and not cracked. The wrong anchors were used during installation and that. There is no insulation over the attic portions of the building".

County Attorney Cruickshanks stated that to convey ownership, by deed, over to the County would be a two step process with a majority vote of County Council.

COUNCILMAN TOLLISON made the MOTION to accept Option 1 presented contingent upon the transfer of the building to Laurens County. COUNCILMAN WOOD SECONDING; VOTE 5-1 (Councilman Pitts in opposition).

Councilman Pitts replied, "I am no architect but, this is a public building and I believe we need some type of professional opinion on the building before we proceed".

Vice Chairman McDaniel said, "We certainly cannot address everything tonight but, if we accept this building there will be ongoing maintenance. At that point who will be responsible?" Chairman Coleman stated that if the County owns the building it will be the County responsibility.

Councilman Tollison asked for all bids and work to be in compliance with the County Procurement Policy.

Administrator Segars said, "I would like for Council to allow us to come back to Council with a better scope of things to include the recent ISO rating and building new fire stations with bond money. Then put this to a County Council Committee".

**REPORT – COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION** – Council Committee Chairman Edward McDaniel reported, "As tasked by the Chairman and full Council, the Laurens County Council Committee on Finance and Administration consisting of myself, as Committee Chairman, with Committee Members David Pitts and Joe Wood, have met on several occasions since early January to organize and conduct procedures for the search of proposals from a qualified auditing firm to conduct the 2014 Fiscal Year Audit with the option of four additional one year extension of the contract.

The Request for Proposal was submitted to the local press for publication as well as a listing in the South Carolina Business Opportunities publication and inclusive of sending the proposals to thirty firms.

A total of ten (10) proposals were received. The ten (10) were evaluated by the Finance Director based on qualification criteria then resulting in seven (7) to be presented to and discussed by the Council Committee. The seven (7) qualifying accounting firms interested in preparing the county's audit for FY 2014 were: Elliott Davis....Greene, Finney & Horton....Love, Bailey & Associates....Mauldin & Jenkins....McGregor & Company....McKinley & Cooper and Martin Smith & Company. There was a Committee consensus to schedule interviews with the following firms - Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC of Macon, Georgia; McKinley, Cooper & Co., LLC of Greenville, SC and Love & Bailey, CPA of Laurens, SC. The proposals represented contracts from thirty five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the 2014 fiscal year. As a motion and a second from the County Council Committee with a 3-1 vote.....Councilman Wood in opposition, the Committee recommends the firm of Mauldin and Jenkins to perform the 2014 Fiscal Year Audit at a cost of \$39,900. If the contract is extended beyond one year, the costs would be FY 2015 Audit - \$39,900 - FY 2016 Audit - \$41,500 - FY 2017 Audit - \$42,000 - FY 2018 Audit - \$42,500".

Chairman Coleman stated that with the MOTION and a SECOND (vote 3-1) coming from the COUNTY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, there only needed to be a Council Voted to approve the recommendations.



Councilman Tollison asked for confirmation that this was the firm from Georgia and questioned the Committee vote of 3-1 while the Committee only consisted of three (3) Committee appointed County Council Members. It was noted that Mrs. Kirk seconded the motion made by Councilman Pitts with Councilman Wood objecting.

Councilman Wood said, "Although I have reservations with the firm selected, I will vote for them in the full Council".

Chairman Coleman calling for the vote stated that the County had been with Elliott Davis for a number of years and now we need to head in another direction. COUNCIL VOTED 6-0 to approve the selection of Mauldin and Jenkins to perform the 2014 Fiscal Year Audit at a cost of thirty nine thousand nine hundred dollars (\$39,900).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESIGNATION FROM THE GATEWAY COUNSELING CENTER BOARD** – Chairman Coleman informed Council that the staff was notified of the recent resignation of Ms. Renie Adair from the Gateway Counseling Center Board and that the Board is appointed by County Council. This position represents Council District #6 held by Councilwoman Anderson.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – ERNIE SEGARS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** - Administrator Segars stated that he did not have anything to report at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Chairman Coleman opened the floor for public comments at 6:35 P.M. Having no one present wishing to address Council, Chairman Coleman closed the session at 6:36 P.M.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Nash expressed his appreciation of the economic development program within Laurens County as being well ahead of progress and, acknowledged the revisions made by the South Carolina Department of Transportation towards roadside clean-up.

Chairman Coleman noted the recent lead article in the South Carolina Association of Counties magazine about Laurens County and the ZF industry.

Councilman Wood recognized Mr. Jimmy Martin of Martin Constriction as being a local vendor selected and awarded a construction contract with the ZF project and of the recent court cases involving the Landfill in the Gray Court area.

Councilman Pitts stated, "I too want to offer recognition to Marvin Moss, Sandy Cruickshanks and Ernie Segars on the dedicated work with the economic development projects. I also want to offer these comments about voting against the Fire Department emergency funding. I am not against the Fire Department in any form or fashion. I just want to make sure that the process meets all Laurens County policy requirements".

Chairman Coleman noted the recent resignation of Teresa Gille from the Laurens County Development Corporation. And, that she would be joining Michelin in the Human Resources Department.

**ADJOURNMENT** – With no further business, Chairman Coleman adjourned the meeting of Council at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Betty C. Walsh  
Laurens County Clerk to Council